Job Description

Director

Commercial Research Delivery Centre UK Network

Commercial Research Delivery Centres (CRDCs) bring together the infrastructure, workforce and expertise required to deliver commercial trials across a range of care settings. The CRDC UK Network also brings together CRDCs across the UK in primary, secondary, specialist and community care to provide more coherent, visible and accessible delivery system for industry. The CRDC UK Network is one of the delivery mechanisms embedded within the NIHR Industry Hub, supporting a coordinated approach to commercial research management and delivery across UK research infrastructure, ensuring all parts of the UK are represented. The Network's role is to combine the strengths of the existing CRDC infrastructure, maximising potential and sharing best practice, producing common processes and removing barriers to recruitment in a way that delivers research participants into commercial clinical trials at pace and scale. The CRDC Network will work with the Industry Hub, to participate in trials and will then align resources and report on progress to deliver the required recruitment volume(s) at the pace set by the Industry Hub across the whole of the UK.

The CRDC UK Network is now well established and is looking to appoint a new Director to oversee and guide the Network through its next phase of development using a theme structure to deliver refreshed objectives aligned with national policy. The Director and Co-Directors will work with NIHR colleagues to identify and agree appropriate objectives and targets to be included in any future Network contract.

The CRDC UK Network Director will work with the existing network Co-Directors, the Operations Director and team across a federated structure. The Network Director will work with colleagues from across the CRDCs, the Industry Hub and other stakeholders to deliver Network objectives.

The Network and core team are hosted by University Hospitals of Leicester NHS Trust, but the Director could be in any area of the UK.

Up to 4 PAs (0.4 WTE) are available for this role.

Person Specification

- Clinical qualification
- Professional body registration

- Higher medical or research degree
- Experience of NIHR infrastructure and NHS governance and regulatory frameworks
- Extensive experience of effective commercial research delivery in the NHS
- Deep understanding of commercial clinical trial lifecycles
- Experience of managing budgets and funding bids
- Experience of managing multi-professional research teams
- High level communication and stakeholder management skills

Main Duties

- Aligning the network of CRDCs to recruit required patients to participate in commercial clinical trials and reporting on activity
- Working with Industry Hub, and other NIHR Networks and delivery mechanisms and manage trials as directed by Industry Hub
- Provide strategic oversight of the Network, monitoring individual site performance versus annual and quarterly objectives, identifying metrics and supporting individual CRDCs to maximise delivery and effectiveness
- Oversee Network budgets, reports and delivery of key Network objectives
- Nurture close working across the devolved nations
- Provide leadership for development of direction and strategic development of the Network
- Lead the development of and delivery of national workstreams of the CRDC Network
- Ensure the needs of commercial sponsors as directed by Industry Hub are fully supported by the network

Invitations are invited from interested candidates before 5pm on 5th December 2026.

The appointment process will consist of a candidate discussion with a stakeholder panel followed by an interview. Dates will be announced as soon as possible

The aim is to make an appointment by the end of 2026.

To apply please send your CV and a 2-page letter outlining your qualifications, reasons for interest in this role and your plans for the future direction of the Network. Please email your application to: uhl-tr.riadmin@nhs.net

For an informal conversation please contact:

Dr Alex Churchill (DHSC representative): Alex.Churchill@dhsc.gov.uk

Prof Nigel Brunskill (host representative): nigel.brunskill@nhs.net